

Replace the paragraph between page 8, lines 12-17 with the following:

a1 --In accordance with another feature of the invention, the method can include providing a first opening of the connecting element in the first vessel and a second opening of the connecting element in the second vessel; and setting an essentially identical static pressure before the first fluid flow and the second fluid flow are generated.--

Replace the paragraph between page 10, line 13 and page 11, line 2 with the following:

a2 In accordance with another feature of the invention, the apparatus can feature a first opening of the connecting element in the first vessel; and a first pressure measuring device for measuring a first pressure in the first vessel level with the first opening. In addition, the apparatus can include a second opening of the connecting element in the second vessel; and a second pressure-measuring device for measuring a second pressure in the second vessel level with the opening of the connecting element.--

Replace the paragraph between page 14, lines 3-8 with the following:

a³ --According to a development of the method, before the first or the second or the first and the second fluid flows are generated, an essentially identical static pressure is set at a first opening of the connecting element in the first vessel and at a second opening of the connecting element in the second vessel.--

Replace the paragraph between page 19, lines 13-21 with the following:

a⁴ --Other developments of the apparatus have a first pressure-measuring device for measuring a first pressure in the first vessel level with the opening of the connecting element. The apparatus also could include a second pressure-measuring device for measuring a second pressure in the second vessel level with the opening of the connecting element. When the first and the second pressures are known, the driving force, which could lead to a fluid exchange between the vessels, can be deduced.--

Replace the paragraph between page 20, lines 12-19 with the following:

a⁵ --Another development of the apparatus likewise allows a compensation of a pressure difference that may possibly be present between the vessels. For this purpose, an outflow

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orifice of an outflow pipe is present in each case level with the opening of the connecting element. The outflow pipes issues into a common pipe. In turn, the common pipe leads to the extraction device and, in particular, issues in the extraction line. The pipe may have, in particular, a valve.--

Replace the paragraph between page 25, lines 7-24 with the following:

Ab
--The connecting element 48 is in the form of a tube. A first closing-off device 52 is located at a first opening 50 of the connecting element 48 into the reactor pit 10. A second closing-off device 57 is located at a second opening 55 of the connecting element 48 into the fuel element storage pond 15. A transport device 60 is movable in the interior 58 of the connecting element 48, by means of which transport device an article 62 can be transported through the connecting element 48. In the exemplary embodiment illustrated, the article 62 is a fuel element and is designated as such below. The transport device 60 may, for example, be a rail-bound truck, on which, as illustrated, the fuel element 62 is transported, lying horizontally, through the connecting element 48. During the times when the connecting element 48 is not used for the transport of fuel elements, the connecting element 48 can be closed off with the aid of the first and the second closing-off devices 52 and 57, and the interiors 43, 44 of

the reactor pit 10 and of the fuel element storage pond 15 can
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cond. thus be separated from one another in a fluid-type manner.--

Replace the paragraph on page 26, lines 12-15 with the
following:

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--The first pressure measuring device 70 comprises a first
effective-pressure line 70A which, by means of a first orifice
70B, receives a first pressure p_1 in the interior 43 of the
reactor pit 10 (in the boron-containing water B) in the
vicinity of the first opening 50.--

Replace the paragraph between page 26, line 17 and page 27,
line 5 with the following:

a8
--The first effective-pressure line 70A is connected to an
evaluation unit 77 via a first valve 70C. Likewise connected
to the evaluation unit 77 is a second effective-pressure
line 75A. The second effective-pressure line 75A belongs to
the second pressure-measuring device 75 and terminates with a
second orifice 75B in the vicinity of the second opening 55 of
the connecting element 48 in the fuel element storage pond 15.
The second pressure measuring device 75 records a second
pressure p_2 in the demineralized water D. The second pressure-

measuring device 75 has a second valve 75C. The orifices 70B, 75B are arranged exactly at the (geodetic) height of the opening 50 and 55, in order to avoid the influence of different densities at the measuring locations.--

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cancel.

Replace the paragraph between page 33, line 9 and page 34, line 5 with the following:

-- The second exemplary embodiment of an apparatus according to the invention, as illustrated in Fig. 2, demonstrates another possibility for bringing about pressure compensation between the vessels 10, 15, for example, as already described, before the closing-off devices 52, 57 are opened. In contrast to the exemplary embodiment illustrated in Fig. 1, no pressure measuring devices 70, 75 are necessary. Instead, first outflow pipe 120 and a second outflow pipe 130 are inserted. The outflow orifices 120A, 130A of which are arranged respectively in the vicinity of the first opening 50 and of the second opening 55 of the connecting element 48. The outflow orifices 120A, 130A are located exactly at the geodetic height of the opening 50 and 55. The diameters of the outflow pipes 120, 130 are considerably smaller than a diameter of the connecting element 48. The outflow pipes 120, 130 are led, via a first nonreturn valve 122 and a second nonreturn valve 132 and also via a first flowmeter 124 and a second flowmeter 134, so as to issue into a common pipe 140.

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